
Program Mission

To protect and restore Washington's waters.

Environmental Threats

Across Washington, water pollution threatens the state's lakes, estuaries, streams, and ground water. A 1998 report by the Department of Natural Resources quantified the variety of impacts affecting the water quality in our state. "The sheer number of people in the state, and the activities we undertake, contribute to the pollution of fresh water. Significant sources of pollution include:

- 5.2 million vehicles on 80,000 miles of public road.
- More than 36,000 farms on 15.7 million acres of land.
- 275 municipalities with existing residential, commercial, and industrial sources.
- About 40,000 additional houses built each year."

As Washington's population continues to increase, so will these potential sources of water pollution. In spite of efforts to date, Washington has a significant number of streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and groundwater polluted by an array of pollutants.

Authorizing Laws

- *Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control Act*
- *Federal Clean Water Act*
- *Federal Safe Drinking Water Act*
- *Chapter 76.09 RCW, Forest Practices Act*
- *Chapter 90.71 RCW, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection*
- *Chapter 70.146 RCW, Water Pollution Control Facilities Financing Act*
- *Chapter 70.105D RCW, Model Toxics Control Act*
- *Chapter 43.21A.650 RCW, Freshwater Aquatic Weeds Account*
- *Chapter 90.64 RCW, Dairy Nutrient Management Act*
- *Chapter 90.46 RCW, Reclaimed Water Use*
- *Chapter 90.50A RCW, Water Pollution Control Facilities Federal Capitalization Grants*

- *Chapter 90.42 RCW, Water Resources Management Act*

Constituents/Interested Parties

- *Citizens*
- *Special interest groups*
- *Local government*
- *Businesses*
- *Environmental organizations*
- *Industries*
- *Small businesses*
- *Local, state and federal governments*
- *Tribal governments*
- *Conservation districts*
- *Cities, counties, tribes, and state and federal agencies*

Major Activities and Results

Prevent Point Source Water Pollution

The agency protects Washington's water by regulating point-source discharges of pollutants to surface and ground waters. This is done with a wastewater permit program for sewage treatment plants, and an industrial discharge program for other industries. A permit is a rigorous set of limits, monitoring requirements, or management practices, usually specific to a discharge, which is designed to ensure that a facility can meet treatment standards and water quality limits. The permit is followed by regular inspections and site visits. Technical assistance and follow-up on permit violations are also provided through various means. (Authorizing Laws - Federal Clean Water Act, 90.48, 90.46, and 70.105D RCW)

Result

Surface and ground water resources meet federal and state water quality standards for the protection of human health and the environment (supply/use, public health, aquatic life, recreation, habitat, and commerce).

- Reduce the amount and toxicity of water pollution by administering the permit program for the state's 2,300 permit holders.
- Issue or renew 85 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System wastewater discharge permits per year.

- Reduce the backlog of permit requests and provide responses to new permit applicants within 60 days of receiving an application.
- Administer eight general permits for 1,400 dischargers.
- Conduct 700 site visits per year.
- Provide certification for 2,000 wastewater plant operators.
- Assist communities in increasing the production and use of reclaimed wastewater.
- Reduce the number of repeat violators (five or more violations per year).
- Administer the \$31 million Permit Fee Account.

Control Stormwater Pollution

The agency prepares tools, gives assistance, and provides compliance pathways for people to control the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff from development and industrial activities. The agency is providing training and assistance to communities and industries on implementing the guidelines in the Western and Eastern Washington Stormwater Manuals. The agency is also working with local governments and other stakeholders to develop a municipal stormwater program and permitting system. (Authorizing Laws - Federal Clean Water Act and 90.48 RCW)



Stormwater runoff at a construction site

Result

Contamination of streams, rivers, estuaries, lakes, and ground water from the runoff of stormwater from roads and other impervious surfaces is reduced.

- Administer the stormwater program for the state's 2,500 construction and industrial stormwater dischargers that require permits.
- Provide responses to new permit applicants within 45 days of receiving an application.
- Issue the municipal Phase 1 and Phase 2 permits, which will cover more than 100

jurisdictions with two-thirds of the state's population.

- Maintain stormwater manuals for both Eastern and Western Washington to identify best management practices.
- Provide Web-based information and support for low- and zero-impact development.

Reduce Nonpoint Source Water Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution (polluted runoff) is the leading cause of water pollution and poses a major health and economic threat. Types of nonpoint pollution include fecal coliform bacteria, elevated water temperature, pesticides, sediments, and nutrients. Sources of pollution include agriculture, forestry, urban and rural runoff, recreation, hydro modification, and loss of aquatic ecosystems. The agency addresses these problems through raising awareness, encouraging community action, providing funding, and supporting local decision makers. The agency also coordinates with other stakeholders through the Washington State Nonpoint Workgroup and the Forest Practices Technical Assistance group. (Authorizing Laws - Federal Clean Water Act and 90.48 RCW)

Result

Protect surface and ground water through community implementation of the State's Nonpoint Pollution Management Plan to address Washington's number one cause of water pollution.

- Surface and ground water resources meet water quality standards.
- Assist the Department of Natural Resources and the forestry industry in managing 12 million acres of state and privately owned forests.
- Assist the Department of Agriculture in developing and implementing a new program for managing animal feeding operations.
- Complete Endangered Species Act assurances for the Forest and Fish program.
- Administer Washington's Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution.
- Ensure state and federal grants are available to, and used efficiently by, organizations in Washington.
- Work with local communities and other agencies to increase the number of stream miles restored or protected.



Restoration of stream bank vegetation

Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance

The agency provides grants and low-interest loans, along with technical assistance, to local governments, state agencies, and tribes so they can build, upgrade, repair, or replace facilities to improve and protect water quality. This includes meeting the state's obligation to manage the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund in perpetuity. The agency also funds nonpoint source control projects, such as watershed planning, stormwater management, freshwater aquatic weed management, education, and agricultural best management practices. Grants are targeted to nonpoint source problems and communities where needed wastewater facilities projects would cause ratepayers a financial hardship. Local governments use loans for both point and nonpoint source water pollution prevention and correction projects. The agency coordinates grant and loan assistance with other state and federal funding agencies. (Authorizing Laws - Federal Clean Water Act, 90.48, 70.146, 43.21A 650, and 90.50A RCW)



Wastewater Treatment Plant

Result

Public funds dedicated to improve and protect water quality for the protection of public health and the environment are managed responsibly.

- Improve water quality through the disbursement of \$68 million in water quality

grants and loans per year to local communities.

- Award 60 new grants and loans per year for projects that demonstrate clear benefits for the environment.
- Administer 350 existing loans and grants per year.
- Capture and illustrate environmental benefits through the data generated from grants and loans.
- Meet recipients' loan and grant timing expectations.

Clean up Polluted Waters

The federal Clean Water Act requires the agency to develop water quality standards and identify water bodies that fail to meet those standards. The agency completes this identification by reviewing thousands of water quality data samples and publishing an integrated water quality assessment report. The report, known as the "303d," lists the water bodies that do not meet standards. The agency works with local interests in the development of cleanup plans (also known as TMDLs – Total Maximum Daily Loads) to reduce the pollution sources to water bodies on the 303d list. The agency also establishes conditions in discharge permits and prepares nonpoint source management plans to monitor the effectiveness of the cleanup plan. (Authorizing Laws - Federal Clean Water Act, 90.48, 90.64, 76.09, and 90.42 RCW)

Result

Water quality cleanup plans to protect public health and the environment are implemented.

- Develop and implement water cleanup plans for 650 water bodies (Washington's legal commitments specified in a Memorandum of Agreement prompted by a lawsuit).
- Submit 50 water cleanup plans and associated technical reports, per year, to the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Assist local communities in implementing water cleanup plans.
- Develop an updated list of water bodies failing to meet water quality standards (303d list).
- Assist local communities and businesses in implementing the newly revised water quality standards regulation by developing "Use Attainability" and other guidance documents.

Major Issues

Point Source Water Pollution

In response to a survey of permittees conducted by the agency, the agency is undertaking a number of steps to assist permit applicants. Three specific areas will be addressed: help applicants better understand the regulatory process and expectations; make timely and predictable decisions; and improve the permit process.

Clean Up Polluted Waters

The agency recently adopted new water quality standards. The next steps are to secure a federal decision on the standards and to assist local communities and businesses in implementing the new standards. The agency published a revised list of contaminated water bodies in Washington (fall 2005).

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution

With the assistance of a broad range of agencies, tribes, local governments, and interest groups, the agency will administer the state's nonpoint source management plan. The plan includes an analysis of Washington's efforts to address nonpoint pollution, identifies actions needed to improve the effectiveness of existing programs, and introduces some new approaches. The plan requires federal approval.

Stormwater

The agency will work to build a common sense stormwater program for urbanizing cities and counties to address the problems associated with stormwater. The agency will use multi-stakeholder advisory groups to prepare municipal stormwater permits and a construction stormwater permit.



Stormwater runoff

Financial Assistance

The agency will issue approximately \$90 million in water quality grants and loans per year. The agency will build on and implement a strategy developed last biennium to demonstrate the environmental benefit of the grant and loan program.

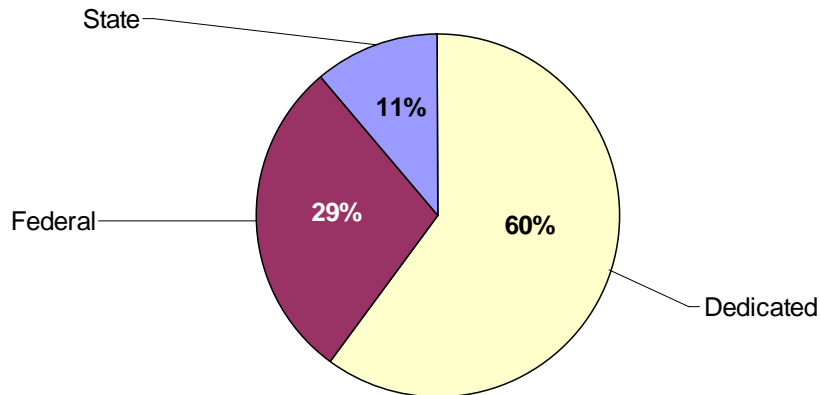
Water Quality Program Budget

Budget = \$54.1 million; FTEs = 231.5

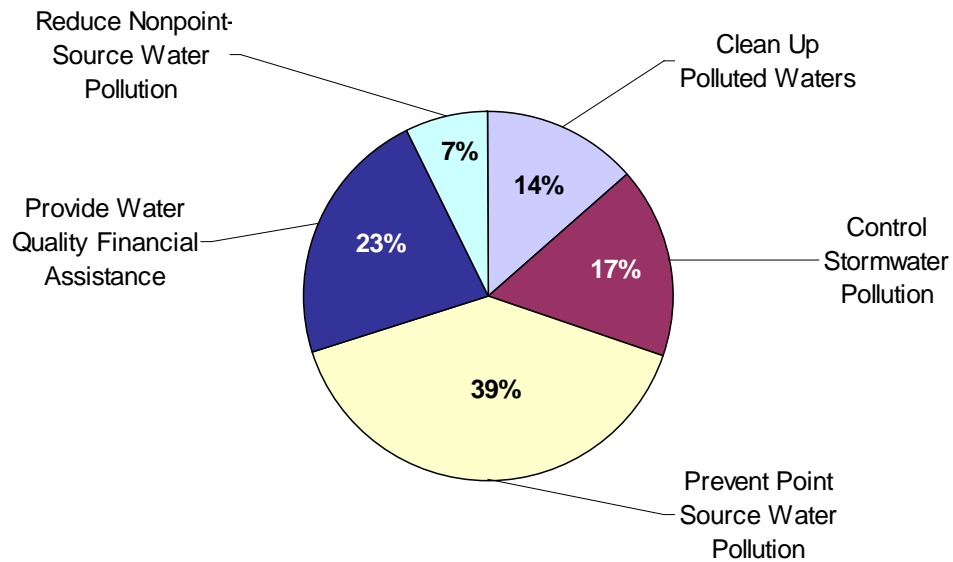
State	(\$ Amount	Sources	Uses
General Fund – State	6,003,703	Multiple	Enforcement of permit requirements; Puget Sound Plan activities such as nonpoint source watershed management; operator certification program; forest practices compliance; water cleanup plans; wastewater re-use; data management, and aquatic plant management.
Federal			
General Fund – Federal	15,690,126	Federal grants	Numerous EPA grants for point and nonpoint source control; water clean up plans; management of water quality grants and loans to local governments; and groundwater protection.
Dedicated Funds			
General Fund – Private/Local	710,887	Agreements with local governments	Miscellaneous, targeted water quality projects such as King County's Brightwater Waste treatment plant
Water Quality Account	2,597,907	Excise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products; sales tax transfer; loan repayments, interest payments; and state general fund transfer	Grant and loan management; technical assistance to local governments for wastewater treatment facilities and nonpoint source projects.
State Toxics Control Account	3,335,928	Hazardous substance tax, recovered remedial actions and penalties collected	Stormwater management; water quality standards; support to Lower Columbia river Estuary Management Program; aquatic pesticides management.
Water Quality Permit Account	21,051,334	Fees assessed on the holders of wastewater discharge permits	Issue and manage federal and state wastewater discharge permits.
Freshwater Aquatic Weeds	2,264,526	Fees on boat trailers	Grants to local governments to prevent, remove, or manage invasive freshwater aquatic weeds.
Freshwater Aquatic Algae Control Account	509,000	Fees on boat licenses	Grants to local governments to prevent, remove, or manage freshwater aquatic algae.
Metals Mining	14,000	Fees collected from active metals mining and millings operations	Inspections required by Metals Mining Act.
Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund	1,970,333	EPA grant and state match	Administer a loan program for constructing or replacing water pollution control facilities. Activities include portfolio management and technical assistance to local governments for

			point, nonpoint, and estuary projects.
TOTAL \$54,147,744			
Capital Budget Funding: \$456,838,489			
State Building Construction Account	30,181,926 (\$10,181,926 reappropriation, \$20,000,000 new, which includes \$1,000,000 for Hood Canal Wastewater Treatment facility, \$750,000 for Kitsap Co Long Lake, and \$50,000 for Wapato Lake in Pierce County.)	Sale of Bonds	Grants/loans for water pollution control facilities, nonpoint-source control, and water quality improvement planning and implementation/activities.
Local Toxics Control Account	3,000,000 (\$2,700,000 new for Phase II Storm Water permits, and \$300,000 new for Belfair/Hoodsport storm water plans)	Hazardous Substance Tax Miscellaneous Revenue	Local toxic grants for storm water improvement planning and implementation/activities.
State Toxics Control Account	10,500,000 (new)	Hazardous Substance Tax Hazardous Waste Cleanup Recoveries Hazardous Waste Fees Misc. Revenue	Grants/loans for water pollution control facilities, nonpoint-source control, and water quality improvement planning and implementation activities.
Water Quality Account	22,981,418 (\$15,481,418 reappropriation, \$7,500,000 new)	Excise tax on cigarettes and tobacco products; sales tax transfer; loan repayments/ interest payments	Grants/loans for water pollution control facilities, nonpoint-source control, and water quality improvement planning and implementation activities.
Public Works Assistance Account	287,359 (reappropriation)	Solid Waste Collection Tax, Real Estate Excise Tax, Public Utilities Tax, Grant Repayment, Loan Repayment, Other Revenue	Grants/loans for water pollution control facilities, nonpoint-source control, and water quality improvement planning and implementation activities.
State Revolving Loan Fund	389,887,786 (\$150,271,500 reappropriation and \$239,616,286 new)	Federal, capitalization grants, loan repayments, interest repayments, and state match	Loans for constructing or replacing water pollution control facilities, nonpoint-source control activities, and estuary management.

Water Quality Program Dollars by Fund Source



Water Quality Program Dollars by Activity



Activity	Dollars	FTEs
Clean Up Polluted Water	7,436,710	34.8
Control Stormwater Pollution	9,003,820	43.7
Prevent Point Source Water Pollution	21,411,720	102.8
Provide Water Quality Financial Assistance	12,363,818	26.2
Reduce Nonpoint-Source Water Pollution	3,931,676	24.0